

PRINCE BULOW AND HIS MEMOIRS

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A postscript added : " I appeal to your friendship for me, and do not let me hear any more of your going. Telegraph to me All right! Then I shall know that you will stay. For the morning after the arrival of your request to resign would not find the Kaiser alive ! Think of my poor wife and children."

Billow's feelings on receipt of this letter are described in one of the most arresting pages of the book. He read it, he declares, with deep emotion. There had been many differences of opinion, " but I loved him with all my heart, and not only for all the goodness he had shown me. I loved the highly-gifted man with his noble qualities, who could be so kind and lovable, so simple and natural, so magnanimous. I am not ashamed to say that I was still quite under his spell. Though scarcely ten years older, I was more mature. My feelings for him were like those of a father for his son who sometimes annoys him and more often causes him anguish, but whose brilliant talents, gifts of mind and heart, and many shining qualities continually delight and attract him. Even in later years, when I had no more illusions as to his superficiality and vanity, his untrustworthiness and especially his lack of truthfulness, even when he fled abroad leaving ruin behind him, I could never resolve to hate him." The appeal was brought to the Chancellor by Moltke, who described in vivid language the lamentable condition of his master, and begged him to write at once and as warmly as possible. If not, " a complete collapse" was to be feared. Billow's reply, which was written "with my heart as well as my head," evoked the joyful telegraphic response : " Hearty thanks ; I am born again." The Bjorko problem proved easier of solution than could be anticipated, for Lamsdorff, mindful of the

obligations of the French alliance, liked the agreement as little as Bismarck; and the treaty, of which the world heard nothing at the time, remained a scrap of paper.

The Chancellor triumphed in 1871, but would the relations between master and servant stand a second and similar strain? The answer was given in 1878, when the complications arising from the *Daily Telegraph* interview brought the partnership to an end. The story of the separation, which fills many chapters, forms the most dramatic portion of the *Memoirs*. The Parliamentary crisis was already known from the debates in the Reichstag and the chapter in *Die Grosse Politik* and the Prince repeats the public defence which he made at the time. When the fateful document reached him at Norderney in the late